

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

Listing of Claims

1-8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented) A multimedia communication apparatus that transmits control data to start transmitting stream data comprising an image stream or a voice stream, said apparatus comprising:

an accumulator that accumulates a plurality of groups into which a plurality of control data are classified, each group comprising data that can be transmitted simultaneously;

a determiner that determines to which group each of said plurality of control data belongs;

a multiplexer that multiplexes control data determined to belong to a same group so as to generate multiplexed control data; and

a transmitter that transmits said multiplexed control data in one transmission unit.

10. (Previously Presented) The multimedia communication apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said accumulator

accumulates, in the same group, first control data that can be transmitted without waiting for response data from a communication partner to second control data.

11. (Previously Presented) The multimedia communication apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:

the multiplexer further multiplexes a plurality of said control data to generate further multiplexed control data; and

the transmitter transmits the further multiplexed control data in one transmission unit.

12. (Previously Presented) The multimedia communication apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising a timer that repeatedly measures a predetermined time period, wherein said transmitter transmits for every time period the multiplexed control data generated for the time period.

13. (Previously Presented) A multimedia communication method that transmits control data to start transmitting stream data comprising an image stream or a voice stream, said method comprising:

accumulating a plurality of groups into which a plurality of control data are classified, each group comprising data that can be transmitted simultaneously;

determining to which group each of said plurality of control data belongs;

multiplexing control data determined to belong to a same group so as to generate multiplexed control data; and

transmitting said multiplexed control data in one transmission unit.

14. (Currently Amended) A multimedia communication apparatus comprising:

a multiplexer that packages first control data and second control data to generate first packaged control data; and

a transmitter that transmits the first packaged control data, wherein

~~the first control data and the second control data are H.245 messages~~ the second control data is a message capable of being transmitted without a wait for response data from a communicating partner to the first control data.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Currently Amended) The multimedia communication apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the first control data and the second control data ~~concern abilities of the multimedia communication apparatus~~ include H.245 messages.

17. (Previously Presented) The multimedia communication apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the first control data includes a master slave determining message and the second control data includes a terminal ability information exchanging message.

18. (Previously Presented) The multimedia communication apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the first control data and the second control data are collectively transmitted.

19. (Currently Amended) A multimedia communication method comprising:

packaging first control data and second control data to generate first packaged control data; and

transmitting the first packaged control data, wherein

~~the first control data and the second control data are H.245 messages~~ the second control data is a message capable of being

transmitted without a wait for response data from a communicating partner to the first control data.

20. (Canceled).

21. (Currently Amended) The multimedia communication method according to claim 19, wherein the first control data and the second control data ~~concern abilities of the multimedia communication apparatus~~ include H.245 messages.

22. (Previously Presented) The multimedia communication method according to claim 19, wherein the first control data includes a master slave determining message and the second control data includes a terminal ability information exchanging message.

23. (Previously Presented) The multimedia communication method according to claim 19, wherein the first control data and the second control data are collectively transmitted.

24. (New) The multimedia communication apparatus according to claim 14, wherein:

the multiplexer packages third control data and fourth control data to generate second packaged control data, after the first packaged control data is generated and response data to the first packaged control data is received from the communicating partner; and

the transmitter transmits the second packaged control data.

25. (New) The multimedia communication method according to claim 19, further comprising:

packaging third control data and fourth control data to generate second packaged control data; and

transmitting the second packaged control data, wherein:

the step of packaging the third control data and fourth control is performed after the first packaged control data is generated and response data to the first packaged control data is received from the communicating partner.